

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00 /020 W

----- 010457

R 140628Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2222

FOR AF/EPS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: E AID

SUBJECT: CREDIT UNION VEHICLE - SELF HELP PROJECT

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NEW 3/4 TON GM 4-WHEEL DRIVE, 8 CYLINDER BLAZER WITH AIR CONDITIONING FOR CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (CUZA) WHICH WAS PURCHASED WITH FY 1974 SELF-HELP FUNDS (IAA 3611090). UPON INSPECTION OF VEHICLE CUZA CONSIDERS ITS EXPECTED OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS TO BE MORE ONEROUS THAN ANTICIPATED. CUZA'S ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO ASSIGN VEHICLE TO NORTHERN PROVINCE. BUT AS GASOLINE THERE COSTS APPROX. \$1.75 PER GALLON (SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LUSAKA) AND BECAUSE OF HIGHLY INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AND LACK OF QUALIFIED MECHANIC FOR AMERICAN VEHICLE, THEY MAY BE OBLIGED RETAIN BLAZER IN LUSAKA WHERE IT CAN BE BETTER MAINTAINED. IN OUR OPINION, THIS WOULD BE INEFFICIENT USE IF NOT WASTE OF 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE DESIGNED FOR ROUGH TERRAIN AND POOR ROADS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES CUZA SAYS IT HAS NO ALTERNATIVE.

2. EMBASSY HESITATES TO TURN OVER BLAZER BECAUSE CUZA WOULD MUCH PREFER LESS COSTLY VEHICLE AND BECAUSE EMBASSY DOUBTS BLAZER WOULD BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED. AS ALTERNATIVE WE SUGGEST TRYING TO FIND BUYER FOR BLAZER FROM U.S. MISSION IN THIS AREA (E.G., GABORONE, MBABANE, DAR) AND USE PROCEEDS PROVIDE CUZA WITH CASH GRANT TO PURCHASE VEHICLE MORE SUITABLE TO ITS NEEDS. VEHICLE MOST SUITABLE FOR CUZA'S NEEDS WOULD BE LOCALLY AVAILABLE, SMALL 4-6 CYLINDER LOW-MAINTENANCE PEUGEOT OR HONDA PICKUP TRUCK OR CARRYALL (COST APPROXIMATELY \$4,500)

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WITH HIGH GAS MILEAGE AND FOR WHICH SPARE PARTS ARE READILY

AVAILABLE. NO AMERICAN VEHICLES AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS ALTERNATIVE CAN BE PURSUED. CASH GRANT WOULD BE MADE IN TERMS OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR DISCRETIONARY COVER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS OF CUZA, ESPECIALLY IN AREA OF NEEDED LOCAL TRANSPORTATION. THUS, WE WOULD HOPE OVERCOME ANY LEGAL OBJECTION THAT WE DIRECTLY PROVIDING AID FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF FOREIGN VEHICLE. ACTUALLY, WHAT WE PROPOSING IS FUNDING IN GENERAL RECOGNITION OF CUZA'S FINANCIAL NEEDS, BUT LEAVING IT UP TO THAT ORGANIZATION AS TO WHICH OF ITS MANY SUPPORT NEEDS ARE ATTENDED TO AND HOW, GIVEN REALITIES OF LOCAL SITUATION AND ZAMBIA'S PRESENT TRANSPORT PROBLEMS (BLOCKED PORTS AND SHIPPING DELAYS) WHICH BEYOND CUZA'S AND OUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME.
WILKOWSKI

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